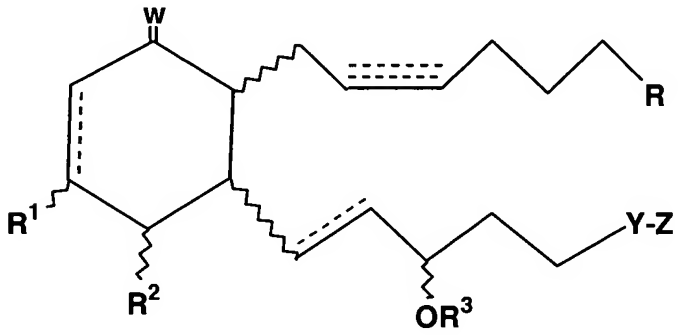
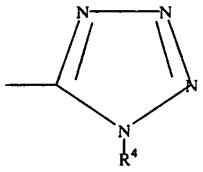
CLAIMS

1. A method of treating ocular hypertension or glaucoma which comprises administering to a mammal having ocular hypertension or glaucoma a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by formula I:



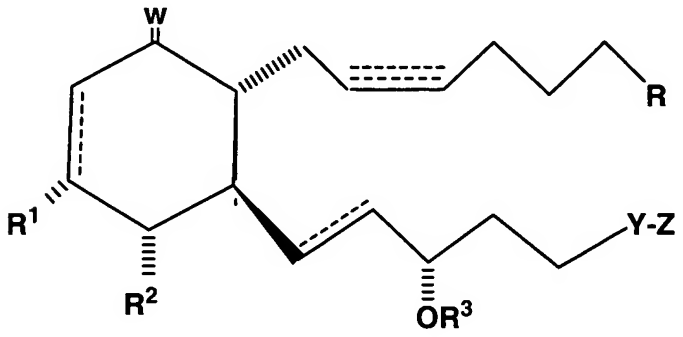
wherein the wavy segment represents an α or β bond, a dashed line represents the presence or absence of a bond, R is selected from the group consisting of CO_2R^4, $CONR^4_2$, CH_2OR^4, $CONR^4SO_2R^4$, $P(O)(OR^4)$ and



wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, phenyl and lower alkyl having from one to six carbon atoms and n is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, a lower alkyloxy radical

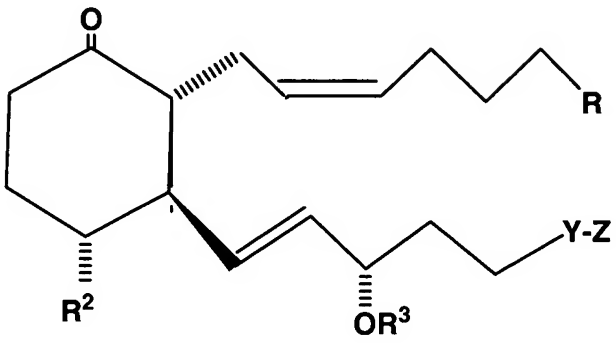
having up to six carbon atoms, or a lower acyloxy radical having up to six carbon atoms, R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a lower alkyl radical having up to six carbon atoms and a lower acyl radical having up to six carbon atoms, W is = O or halogen, Y is a covalent bond or is selected from the group consisting of CH_2, O, S and N and Z is a alkyl or cycloalkyl radical including from three to ten carbon atoms or an aromatic radical including a hydrocarbyl aromatic radical having from six to ten carbon atoms or a heterocyclic aromatic radical having from four to ten carbon atoms and including a heterocyclic atom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said compound is represented by formula II:

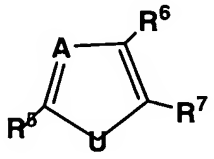


wherein the hatched segment represents an α bond and the solid triangle represents a β bond.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said compound is represented by formula III

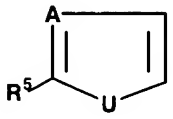


4. The method of claim 3 wherein Z is phenyl or is represented by the formula IV



wherein U is selected from the group consisting of O and S, A is selected from the group consisting of N, -CH, and C, R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and lower alkoxy having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, R^6 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl having

from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or, together with



, R^6 and R^7 forms a condensed aryl ring.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein U is S.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein R is CO_2R^4.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein R is H or methyl.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein Z is phenyl.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein R is CO^2R_4.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein R^4 is H.

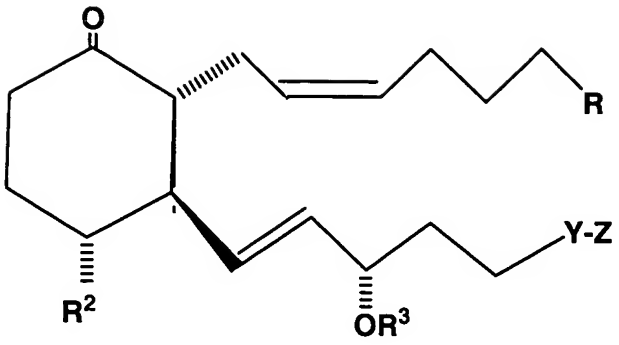
11. The method of claim 4 wherein Z is chlorobenzothienyl.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein R is CO^2R_4.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein R^4 is H.

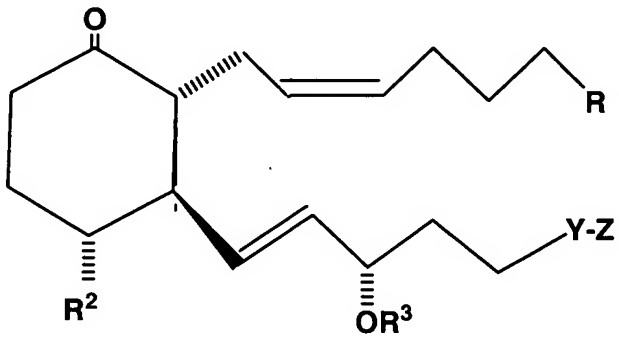
14. An ophthalmic solution comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a non-toxic, ophthalmically acceptable liquid vehicle, packaged in a container suitable for metered application.

15. The ophthalmic solution of Claim 14 wherein said compound is a compound of Formula III



16. A pharmaceutical product, comprising a container adapted to dispense the contents of said container in metered form; and an ophthalmic solution in said container comprising a compound of formula I as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a non-toxic, ophthalmically acceptable liquid vehicle.

17. The product of claim 16 wherein said compound is compound of Formula III

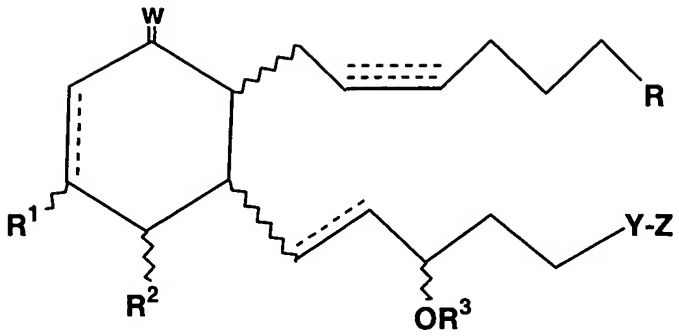


18. The product of claim 17 wherein Z is phenyl.

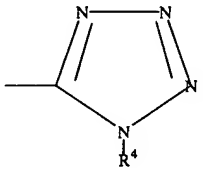
19. The product of claim 18 wherein R is CO_2R^4 wherein R^4 is H or methyl.

20. The product of claim 19 wherein R^4 is H.

21. The compound represented by formula I:



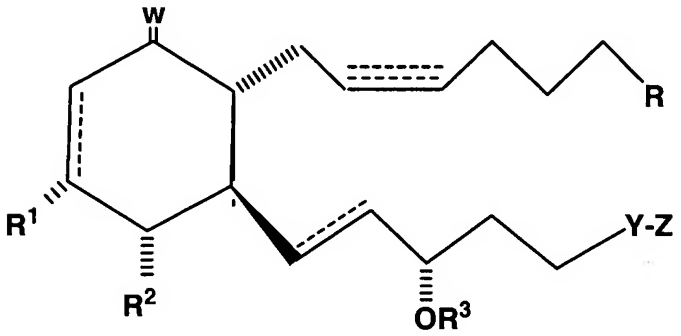
wherein the wavy segment represents an α or β bond, a dashed line represents the presence or absence of a bond, R is selected from the group consisting of CO_2R^4, $CONR^4_2$, CH_2OR^4, $CONR^4SO_2R^4$, $P(O)(OR^4)$ and



wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, phenyl and lower alkyl having from one to six carbon atoms and n is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, a lower alkyloxy radical having up to six carbon atoms, or a lower acyloxy radical having up to six carbon atoms, R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a lower alkyl radical having up to six carbon atoms and a lower acyl radical having up to six carbon atoms, W is = O or halogen, Y is a covalent bond or is selected from the group consisting of CH_2, O, S and N and Z is a alkyl or

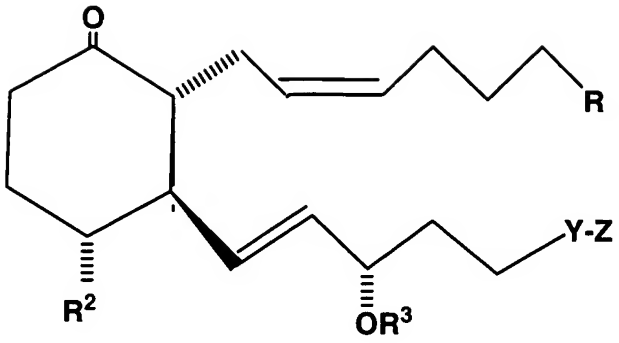
cycloalkyl radical including from three to ten carbon atoms or an aromatic radical including a hydrocarbyl aromatic radical having from six to ten carbon atoms or a heterocyclic aromatic radical having from four to ten carbon atoms and including a heterocyclic atom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts and esters thereof.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is represented by formula II:

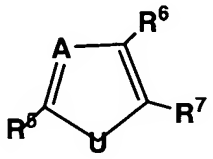


wherein the hatched segment represents an α bond and the solid triangle represents a β bond.

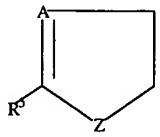
23. The method of claim 22 wherein said compound is represented by formula III



24. The method of claim 23 wherein Z is phenyl or is represented by the formula IV



wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of O and S, A is selected from the group consisting of N, -CH, and C, R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and lower alkoxy having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, R^6 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or, together with



, R^6 and R^7 forms a condensed aryl ring.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein U is S.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein R is CO_2R^4.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein R is H or methyl.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein Z is phenyl.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein R is CO^2R_4.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein R^4 is H.